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AUTHOR	Hesmondhalgh, Matthew; Breakey, Christine
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ABSTRACT

Based on pioneering work at a school in Sheffield, England, this book explores the universal issues of access and inclusion in employment and education for children and young people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). It describes the challenges educators faced in establishing and running an integrated resource room for children with ASD within a mainstream secondary school. The 24 pupils in the program participated in the regular school curriculum, but also learned a wide range of additional life skills. These included road safety, work-place skills, and using public transport, as well as expressing feelings, making choices, and learning from experiences. One innovative area of work in the program is the work placement scheme, which has given pupils the opportunity to work with local companies, including a supermarket and an insurance firm. In addition, the program has established a partnership with a college to enable students to gain further support after they leave school. These projects have demonstrated the encouraging possibilities in employment and the wider world for young people with ASD. This book makes useful, practical suggestions for access and inclusion, showing how those with ASD can participate fully in the world of work and the community. (Contains 14 references.) (CR)

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